denying availability of reservation for common man standing before the counters, as tickets can be booked only from 08.00 hrs. to 20.00 hrs., the Ministry contemplates any proposal to restrict e/ticket/i-ticket reservations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): On the opening day of the reservation, the reserved accommodation available in a train is thrown open simultaneously at 0800 hours to all passengers including those booking through internet as well as across the counter at computerized Passenger Reservation System Centres. The passengers booking through internet can book the accommodation during the period beyond the working hours of normal Passenger Reservation System counters only for those trains which have already been thrown open for booking. At present, there is no proposal under consideration to restrict e-ticket/i-ticket reservation.

Extra work by 'C' class gatemen

2408. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'C' class gatemen, who are residing beyond 0.5 kms. from their place of work are also required to work extra 24 hours in a week at par with those who are provided with residential accommodation within 0.5 kms. from their place of work;

(b) whether railway servants (Hours of Work and Period of Rest) Rules-2005 stipulates 12 additional hours per week for those who are not provided accommodation within 0.5 kms. radius of the place of work; and

(c) whether Ministry would curtail this practice which is against rules or compensate them suitably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The Railway Servants (Hours of Work and Period of Rest) Rules, 2005 dealing with fixation of hours of work of railway servants provide that as per the rostered hours of work for 'Gatemen C, they can be called upon to work 24 additional hours per week irrespective of the distance where residence is provided.

(c) There is no such proposal since the provision is as per the extant rules.

Late running of Gwalior to Barauni, Chapara Mail

†2409. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gwalior to Barauni, Chapara Mail runs about 12 hours late from last two three years;

(b) the reasons for late running of this train and whether the railways is suffering revenue loss due to it; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether there would be improvement in the late running of this train and if so, the measures to be taken and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) With a view to improve its punctuality performance, the timings of 1123/1124 Gwalior-Barauni mail have been rescheduled from 19th December, 2008. The punctuality of the train has, thereafter, improved.

Insufficient rail racks for supply of food items

2410. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rail racks are insufficient in number to supply the food items which are at the godowns to each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase the rail racks to supply food items to each State especially in the rainy seasons when the food items get damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There are enough rakes available with the Railways to carry foodgrains as per programme given by Food Corporation of India. Railways are according high priority to allotment of rakes for movement of foodgrains.

Regulation of drug prices

†2411. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is making medicines more affordable;

(b) if so, which are the additional medicines it is adding to its purview and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NPPA is working on the price and availability to Tami flu to combat Swine Flu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) NPPA fixes/revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs included in the First Schedule of Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) and formulations using these bulk drugs with an objective to make these drugs affordable. No additional drug has been added in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995.

NPPA also monitors the movement in prices of non-Scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever there is a price increase

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.